

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Rao (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,905) in view of Kaneda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,184,282). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rao teaches an adapter for connecting a plurality of devices that includes a support structure, at least three connectors and a conversion device. The at least three connectors are connected to the support structure. Each connector is configured to operate in accordance with a respective first, second and third different protocol. The conversion device is connected to the connectors for converting between the respective first, second and third protocols associated with the at least three connectors. The conversion device includes an application specific integrated circuit chip.

Kaneda discloses an IC card adapter connectable to an electronic device. The adapter includes a housing having a top, a bottom and four sides with three of the sides of the housing having slots defined therein. Each slot has a card receptor portion for receiving an individual IC card. At least one of the card receptor portions is in a first plane which is non-coincident and generally parallel to a second plane in which at least one other card receptor portion is located. IC cards are readily detachable from the card receptor portion.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a card connection adaptor for connecting to a connector of a card slot disposed in a card slot connector housing compliant with a predetermined first standard with a card compliant with a second standard which is different from the first standard and includes a first connector, a second connector compliant with the second standard, signal conversion circuitry and a housing which holds the first connector, the second connector and the signal conversion circuitry. Claim 1 recites that the housing has a card insertion port which opens generally perpendicularly to an adaptor insertion direction in which the card connection adaptor is inserted into the card slot of the card slot connector housing and a card retaining space for retaining therein the second-standard-compliant card inserted from the card insertion port. Claim 1 further recites that, when the card connection adaptor with the second-

standard-compliant card is retained in the card retaining space is inserted into the card slot of the card slot connector housing, the second-standard-compliant card is at least substantially contained within both the card slot connector housing and the card connector adapter in a manner to prevent inadvertent disconnection of the second-standard-compliant card from the card connector adapter while inserted in the card slot.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that, when the card connection adaptor with the second-standard-compliant card is retained in the card retaining space is inserted into the card slot of the card slot connector housing, the second-standard-compliant card is at least substantially contained within both the card slot connector housing and the card connector adapter in a manner to prevent inadvertent disconnection of the second-standard-compliant card from the card connector adapter while inserted in the card slot. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-7 and 10-15 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 in 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Rao in view of Kaneda and further in view of Bhargava et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,229). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bhargava discloses an accessory for interconnecting a scanning head for electro-optically reading coded symbols and for transmitting decoded signals along a head cable connected to the head and a host device having a data

processor with a predetermined data exchange format for receiving the decoded signals. The accessory includes a housing, a first connector, a second connector and a converter. The housing is located externally of the scanning head and the host device. The first connector on the housing is detachable connection to the host device wherein the first connector includes a host cable having one end fixedly connected to the housing and a host connector at an opposite end of the host cable. The second connector means includes a plug-in modular connector on the housing and is accessible at an exterior surface of the housing for detachable connection to the head cable. The converter within the housing is connected to both connectors in a condition of use and is operative for converting the decoded signals from the scanning head into digital data signals having a format compatible with the predetermined data exchange format of the host device. The housing and both connectors are mechanically interconnected as a portable, unitary assembly separate from the scanning head and the host device when not being used.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

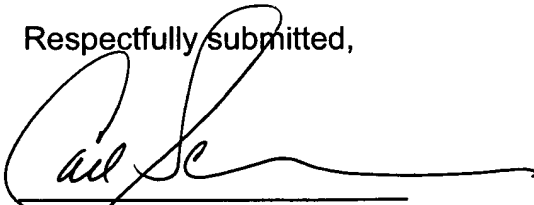
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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